



LOUISIANA SENATE

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SENATOR SMITH ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF ENEGERY COUNCIL

District 30 State Senator John Smith (D-Leesville) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Energy Council at the organization's 2014 annual meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma over the weekend. The Energy Council is a legislative organization comprised of 11 energy-producing states and three Canadian provinces that work to develop energy and environmental policy proposals. Louisiana helped to found the Council in 1975.

"It is an honor to be elected by my legislative colleagues from energy-producing states across the nation," Sen. Smith said. "Energy is a vital part of Louisiana's economy. It produces jobs and tax revenues. I am excited about the year ahead and as Chairman, I will lead the discussion on a variety of issues including energy markets and emerging technologies."

Following his election, Sen. Smith outlined a number of points in his 2014-2015 strategic plan for the organization.

"The outlook for energy is bright. We are both on the verge of energy self-sufficiency as well as growing in the global energy market. The shale revolution has redefined the energy resource base and the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico has emerged as a new frontier," Sen. Smith noted.

Sen. Smith also mentioned that lowering energy costs, bringing jobs and industry home from overseas, and adapting to changing energy regulations will be up for discussion in the coming year.

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